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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)
SUBJECT Askania Works

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Parts for the steering mechanism of Soviet torpedoes are manufactured in the Askaniawerke at Seltow. They consist of electrical components, mainly of pure mild steel. About 30 large cases leave the works monthly.
2. A small piece of apparatus for torpedoes is also manufactured which has four electron tubes. The dimensions are about 25 by 6 by 5 cm. The housing is of a greenish plastic. There has been a good deal of sabotage recently in the manufacture of this apparatus by the introduction into it of copper filings.
3. About 5,000 gyrocompasses were manufactured in September 1953. Eight aircraft voice radio sets were produced and about 200 phase compensation apparatus. Only two radio altimeters were produced. This production has been suspended temporarily due to lack of funds, according to report.
4. The plant is handicapped above everything else by a shortage of skilled workers. A large part of the former permanent staff is located in the West; another part is in the Soviet Union. The next greatest difficulty is with impure metals, which in part are unusable.
5. The condensers which up to now have been delivered by the RFT Niedersiedlitz and Radeberg are poor to begin with. They are lacking in precision and are very temperature-sensitive. The only serviceable condensers are delivered by Hescho, at Hermsdorf, but these are not suitable for all purposes because Hescho makes only condensers of the ceramic kind.

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